CONSTITUTION

AND

RULES

OF THE

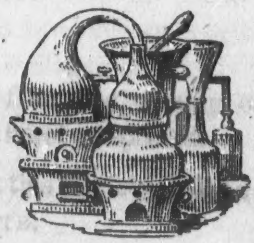
CITY OF TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE:

TOGETHER WITH A

CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS

IN THE

LIBRARY.



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1842.

THE SOCIETY is managed by a President, two Vice Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, and fourteen Committee-men, who, with the said officers, form a Committee, and are elected Annually.

CONSTITUTION.

INCONVENIENCES having been experienced by the Committee and Members of the YORK MECHANICS' INSTITUTE under the then existing Regulations, the property having increased, and custody thereof incurring greater expense, it was considered advisable to alter and amend such Rules as experience had shown required it. Notice thereof was given, according to Article No. 29 of the Constitution, at the Quarterly Meeting held on the 22nd day of October, 1838, and the following Rules were proposed in place of the then existing Constitution, to be agreed to or disallowed at the next Quarterly Meeting; at which last-named meeting, held on the 21st day of January, 1839, the election of a new Committee occupied the attention of the members until late in the evening, and the subject was adjourned until Friday, the 27th day of March, 1839, when the following Constitution was adopted:

ARTICLE I. That from the passing of this Constitution all former Rules are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE II. That this Society shall be called the TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

ARTICLE III. Its object to be the diffusion of Scientific and Literary Knowledge, by a Library of reference and circulation—by the formation of a Museum of specimens in Zoology, Geology, or other subjects of Nature, Science, or Manufacture, by Classes, by Conversations, by opening a Reading Room, or any other method the Committee may judge necessary.

ARTICLE IV. It shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, two Librarians, fourteen Committee men, and an indefinite number of Honorary, Ordinary, and Junior, Members.

ARTICLE V. The President and Vice Presidents shall be elected at the Annual Public Meeting, by show of hands.

ARTICLE VI. The Committee, including the Secretaries, Librarians and Treasurer, (together nineteen) shall be elected by ballot, at a meeting of the Institute, at least one week before the Annual Public Meeting, and such elected Committee shall at their first meeting elect from their number, the two Secretaries, two Librarians, and the Treasurer; the President and Vice Presidents form part of the Committee of Management. Two thirds of the Committee shall be working mechanics, six to form a quorum.

ARTICLE VII. One month before the day of electing the Committee, a paper shall be placed in the public room of the Institute, on which any member may nominate one other member as a fit and proper person for the office of Committee-man, and shall sign his own name to such nomination; if one week previous to the election, the number of nominees do not amount to double the number of the Committee to be elected, the existing Committee shall fill up the list to that number, which list shall be the only candidates allowed, and any ballot for any other shall be rejected by the Scrutineers.

ARTICLE VIII. Persons wishing to become Ordinary or Junior Members, must give in their own name, and the names of two Members to whom they are known, to the Secretary, pay their entrance fee and subscription, and subscribe to this constitution. Honorary Members are admitted by the Committee without payment of fees; the entrance fee of Ordinary Members shall be five shillings, and the annual subscription seven shillings and sixpence; the entrance fee of Junior Members shall be two shillings

and sixpence, and the annual subscription five shillings. Persons paying ten pounds are Honorary Members for life, or by paying one pound per annum are Honorary Members during such payments; all fees or subscriptions are payable in advance. Members of other Mechanics' Institutes, and who have belonged thereto and paid to within six months previous to application, shall be admitted without payment of the admission fee, the Committee to decide upon the right of the claimant.

ARTICLE IX. Honorary elected Members have the right of attending Lectures and other privileges of Ordinary Members, except being elected to office, or voting at elections. Honorary Members, by payment, have all the privileges of Ordinary Members.

ARTICLE X. Ordinary Members, whose subscriptions are paid up, are eligible to all offices, to vote at all elections of President, Vice Presidents, or Committee men, and on all questions relative to the conduct of Officers, Members, or property of the Institute, to attend Lectures, to the use of the Library, or Museum, to attend Classes or Conversations, under the rules made by the Committee, and on payment of the fees annexed to such privilege, they have the power of annulling any Rule or By-Law of the Committee, at an ordinary or special Meeting of the Institute.

ARTICLE XI. Junior Members are not eligible to office, or to vote at elections, or on any question; they are entitled to all the means of obtaining instruction which Ordinary Members possess. No person can be a Junior Member when upwards of eighteen years of age, except females, who are Junior Members in every case.

ARTICLE XII. The duty of the President is to preside at all Public Meetings called by the Committee, on the affairs of the Institute—at all meetings of the Institute or of the

Committee; he has the power to call Meetings of the Institute or of Committee on his own motion, or on the requisition of four Committee men, or twelve members.

ARTICLE XIII. The Vice Presidents, in the absence of the President shall preside according to the precedency in which their names were proposed for election, the two Vice Presidents can call any Meeting which it is competent for the President to call.

ARTICLE XIV. The Committee have the custody of the property of the Institute, and shall receive and pay all monies, for rent, attendance, purchase of Books, Instruments, objects for a Museum, or other necessary purposes; to receive donations, to make Bye-Laws not repugnant to this Constitution; to make regulations for the care and distribution of the Library; to procure Lectures to be delivered; to admit Members; to expel or fine Members for non-payment of their subscription, or for immoral or improper language or conduct, or for introducing Political or Religious discussion; in all cases of expulsion, except for non-payment of fees or subscriptions, the expelled Member has the right of appeal to the next Meeting of the Institute—to make regulations for the admission of non-Members to the Lectures or other benefits of the Institute; to appoint sub-Committees to execute part of their duties; to fix the sums to be paid by Members for attending Classes, or for any other privilege which requires separate payments; and generally they have all the powers of the Institute, subject to the approval of the next Meeting.

ARTICLE XV. The duties of the Recording Secretary are to keep an account of the transactions of the Public Meetings, of Meetings of the Institute, or of the Committee, to announce all Meetings, to sign Members Tickets, receive Money, and pay the same to the Treasurer, keeping an account thereof. In all cases in which the words "the Secretary" is used in this Constitution, or in proceedings under it, the Recording Secretary is to be understood.

ARTICLE XVI. The Corresponding Secretary shall receive and answer all letters on the business of the Institute.

ARTICLE XVII. The Treasurer shall take charge of all Monies received on account of the Institute, and pay all Drafts, by order of the Committee, to the amount of the Funds in his hands.

ARTICLE XVIII. The Librarians have charge of the Books, Instruments, or other property of the Institute, and shall attend to the distribution of the Library under the Regulations made by the Committee.

ARTICLE XIX. The Secretaries, Treasurer, and Librarians shall report any circumstance within their respective departments affecting the interests of the Institute at the next meeting of the Committee, [illegible] specially report when required to do so.

ARTICLE XX. All members whose [illegible]ons have run out three months shall be expelled by the [illegible]ittee. Any member expelled for immoral conduct or improper language, or for introducing political or religious discussion, shall not be allowed to apply for re-admission until one year after such expulsion,—and then on payment of renewed entrance fee.

ARTICLE XXI. The Public Meeting for the election of President and Vice Presidents, shall take place during the first week in February, every year, and the meeting of the Institute for the election of Committee at least one week previous, the day, time and place, to be announced by the Secretary. The quarterly meetings shall take place in the third week of May, August and November. The duties of the going out Committee do not expire until they have reported to the annual Meeting. The Committee elect have power to elect their officers and call the annual Meeting so soon as they are elected.

ARTICLE XXII. Any repeal, alteration, or addition intended to be made to, or in the foregoing Rules must have written notice thereof given to the Secretary to be laid before the Committee, and must be proposed at the next regular Meeting of the Institute, but cannot be adopted until a second meeting, there being at least an interval of two months between them, and at each of which Meetings there shall be at least twenty Members present, and three-fourths consenting.

RULES FOR THE LIBRARY.

RULE I. That each Member, on taking out the first book, shall either give security for the safe return of the same, or be furnished with a blank form which he shall return on exchanging the said book filled up to the satisfaction of the Librarian, and on no account shall a second book be delivered unless this form be complied with, and the same shall be required from every Member who has not yet given security.

RULE II. The Library shall be opened for the delivery and exchange of books once a week, and notice shall be given by the Librarian of any change of days or hours of receipt and delivery.

RULE III. Any person keeping a book longer than the time allowed for reading it shall be fined threepence, if delivered within the second interval allowed, sixpence for the third, and one shilling for the fourth, being altogether one shilling and ninepence, each fine being separate, and when two or more are incurred, to be added together, when the last named fine shall be incurred, the Librarian shall address the

party also his security in writing informing them thereof, and that in case the book is not returned and the fines paid, the circumstance will be reported to the Committee at their next meeting.

RULE IV. No person shall have more than one volume in his possession, except some other may be obviously necessary for its proper elucidation.

RULE V. The Librarian shall report to the Committee any loss or damage which may occur, and suggest such mode of preventing or redressing the injury as he may judge necessary, and the Committee may at their discretion either suspend the priviledges or fine any Member who may injure or destroy the property of the Institute, any Member so fined or suspended may appeal to a general meeting of the Institute.